

BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH, LEICESTER

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**



**Bishop Street Methodist Church
10a Bishop Street
Leicester
LE1 6AF**

Charity Number 1129068

1. INTRODUCTION

The church community consists of people from a variety of countries and backgrounds. Many work unsocial hours and find church attendance difficult, some are seeking work or have low incomes, some are unable to work, some are students, a few are asylum seekers, some are families with small children, some are retired. Bishop Street welcomes such a diverse community and tries to be sensitive to differing needs, and responsive to new initiatives, changes and ideas.

As a church in the city centre, many vulnerable people pass through its doors. Its premises are widely used by a very diverse cross-section of the city centre community – which includes people living in the locality and large numbers who travel into the centre from across the city and county. Christians from the Leicester area, and community organisations with no Christian background all contribute to activities on the premises which enhance community life and support the marginalised.

The life and work of the church is underpinned by its mission statement:

The Mission Statement of Bishop Street Methodist Church is:
to serve people in Leicester City Centre

In practice this happens through worship and mission, the aims being that:

In worship we:

- deepen our understanding of being a disciple of Jesus
- are challenged to respond both individually and corporately to that discipleship in mission and service.
- open ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit.

In mission we:

- embody the message of the love of God for all people
- prioritise activities which contribute to well-being and spiritual growth
- give special support to those marginalised by society
- provide accessible ways in which people can encounter Christian faith

This Annual Report of the Trustees of Bishop Street Methodist Church, highlights the work and activities from September 1st 2015 to August 31st 2016, under the following sections, confirming that the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

- Church Life
- Outreach Projects
- Building Use
- Administration
- Property and Finance

2. CHURCH LIFE

i. Worship

The Church is open 7 days a week and many people use it for private prayer. On Sundays, morning worship continues and 6 times a year a café church style of worship is held. Two Creative Services – Weaving and Prayer Loom and Your Kingdom Come – were held on a weekday evening. Prayers are held at 1pm on Mondays and Wednesdays, a Bible Study at 12noon on Thursdays and a Communion Service on the first Wednesday at 1pm. Facilities are offered for baptisms, weddings and funerals, with accompanying pastoral care. Worship consultations are held during the year to which all members of the congregation are invited.

As 2015-6 was celebrated as the bicentenary of the building of the church, former ministers were invited back to conduct worship. A series of sermons during Lent followed the themes of the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Bishop Robert Schnase (Abingdon: Nashville, 2007). Three cell groups were set up during the year and followed these themes. An evening service was held in September 2015 which united city congregations with a Wesley heritage.

The church hosted a Leicester-wide Good Friday Service. It participated in Sing Christmas with Radio Leicester when Christmas Carols were sung in Town Hall Square (see video clip on www.youtube.com), had a Church Christmas meal and organised Carols in the Café. In June a church day out to Hunstanton was organised.

The attendance at worship has remained steady though actual membership now better reflects attendance. There were 56 members at the end of the Methodist year August 2016.

The church supported All We Can's sanitation and hygiene project through Voluntary Action Development in Uganda.

ii. Sunday School

The Sunday School has 10 regular members, augmented by visiting children. It has three regular teachers augmented by volunteers. The Sunday School meets nearly every Sunday (with the exception of some Cafe Church services). Children's activities are provided on those Sundays when no teachers are available. The lessons have largely followed the Lectionary, with some seasonal themes. The children share the craft, songs and lessons they have learned with the rest of the congregation towards the end of the service. The children performed a nativity play and older members of the Sunday are involved in reading lessons and offering prayers in Sunday morning services.

iii. Students

The church welcomed students from De Montfort and Leicester Universities to the morning service, and at the beginning of the academic year took them to a meal at a local restaurant. Students participate in the activities at the chaplaincy centres at their university.

iv. The Elderly

Regular Elders' Teas have been held. Sadly three regular attendees have died. During the year the themes from *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* (Schnase) have been discussed at these gatherings and new members have joined and have appreciated the opportunity to get to know other members of the congregation, the minister and some of the pastoral team. The afternoon ends with a short act of worship.

v. Work with the Vulnerable

As well as supporting the work of the British Red Cross, and the City of Sanctuary in Leicester, the church continued to support asylum seekers within the congregation. Open Church, on Mondays, in addition to serving refreshments, also provides a meeting place for a number of long-term unemployed people, people living on their own and people with mental and other health issues. Rental groups include a large number of support and self-help groups (see below at #4 Building Use.)

vi. Methodist, Ecumenical and Faith Groups

The church is an active participant in Churches Together in Leicester City Centre, which promotes ecumenical and interfaith dialogue in the city centre. Christian Aid held a large Pentecost event at the church, preceded by city pilgrimage walks. The church also has links with the Leicester Council of Faiths. Working with Christians Aware, it hosted a series of talks led by people of other faiths on the theme of The Environment during inter-faith week. As part of the Bicentenary celebrations an Interfaith Walk was organised with Christians Aware. Visits were made to the Hara Krishna centre, Unitarian chapel, Sikh Gurdwara and Jain temple. As a church within the Leicester Trinity Circuit and the Northampton Methodist District, the church participates in the wider life of the Methodist Church.

vii. Schools

Years 5 and 6 from Charnwood School visited in January 2016 to learn about the building and Methodist beliefs and worship. They were very positive about the visit.

3. OUTREACH PROJECTS

Talks in the Chapel

These talks are open to all and focus on a topical subject for an hour from 6.15pm -7.15pm on Thursday evenings. In 2015 to 2016 the topics were:

- Heritage and Mission – Dr Jill Barber
- Readings for Advent and Christmas – Howard Smith
- Variations in Christmas Music – Neil Crutchley
- Jane Austen, Methodism and God – Richard Gill and Dr Miriam Stevenson
- William Gardiner, the man who introduced Beethoven to the British – Neil Crutchley
- The Science of Rainbows and Haloes – Dr Gilliam Butcher
- Arthur Wakerley – Neil Crutchley
- Poetry and the Great War – Richard Gill

Art and Spirituality

Art at the Chapel put on a wide range of exhibitions, events and creative services. **Exhibitions** included Bishop Street Methodist Church's bi-centenary exhibition. The congregation was invited to think about what church meant to them and were photographed holding a board with their responses. There were exhibitions of photography by the Leicester U3A and an Advent exhibition on the Jesse Tree.

Bishop Street hosted the exhibition resulting from the national interfaith Weaving Women's Wisdom project; an exhibition of biblical Chinese Scrolls; a photography exhibition by Tom Cross; 'Your Kingdom Come' photographs by Ruth Joy acted as both exhibition and meditative activity. Christian Aid's 'Turning the World Upside Down' exhibition and event included a creative service inspired by the exhibition which focused on the theme of 'Community'.

Other events and activities held included a contemplative photography day at Western Park and the creation of a 'Prayer Loom' encouraging physical prayer techniques to which visitors to the church were invited to contribute before it was displayed in the Cafe. Prayer station material was provided for a creative Sunday service in Lent and for a creative retreat day for another church in the Circuit which produced a booklet.

Café

The Chapel Café continues in the church foyer and is open 6 days a week. It is managed by the Zinithiya Trust who train people to establish or re-establish themselves in the workplace. It is a much appreciated café within a liberal sacred space where people meet over coffee, lunch or

afternoon tea. It often provides refreshments for events taking place in the church and to community groups using the church.

Heritage

The heritage room was officially opened by Dr Jill Barber, then Vice President of Conference, on Thursday 24th September 2015. It was open to the public on several occasions during 2016 when the church hosted exhibitions and events relating to city and national heritage themes. Information has been collected for an exhibition of world- wide Methodism focusing on the background of members of the congregation from overseas for display in September 2015.

Jill Barber declares the Heritage Room open.



The video camera has been used to make a video of the features in the city centre associated with John Wesley and the early days of Methodism in the city. This was shown on the open day held on 12th August 2016. A leaflet providing a self guided walk visiting these sites in the city centre has also been produced. Work began in 2016 on restoring the organ and cleaning and conserving the organ case. Video footage for the various stages of the work has been recorded. The team have received advice from the museums conservation officer and have purchased recommended storage envelopes in which to keep the original photographs from the 19th and early 20th Century. Leaflets and booklets have been reprinted as needed. More Regency and Victorian children's costumes have been purchased for dressing up on open days, and on the occasion of the Anniversary Service held on August 13th 2016.

An evaluation form and accounts were submitted to the Methodist Connexion Heritage team in February 2016 when a further £2,744.70 had been spent during 2015 leaving £5,255.44 for further work in 2016.

4. BUILDING USE

Bishop Street Church and Community Rooms continue to be used heavily by a very wide selection of groups, and for a diverse range of activities. A rough estimate of the number of groups, events and activities that happen suggests that over 1,700 different events (cafe, meeting, concert, talk, etc) took place over the year – which is an average of almost 5 per day.

Community Groups

Users of our Church buildings include: The Chapel Café, run by the Zinthiya Trust, open daily in the Church café area, Jabula New Life Covenant Church services, Community Cycle Project (basement), Leicester CND administrative base Leicester Street Pastors administrative base. 12 Alcoholics Anonymous meetings per week, including a women's group and a Polish language group. Two Narcotics Anonymous groups per week.

Other regular and one-off activities:-

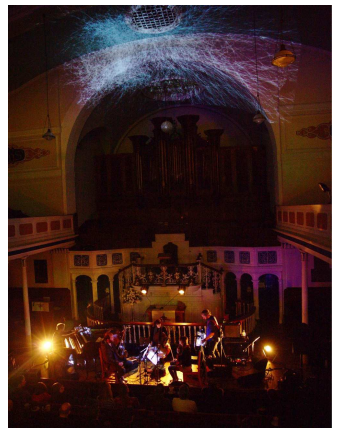
Chinese (Mandarin) language classes, Kainé teen-parent support groups, Education and Youth training sessions, Yoga for Relaxation and health, Princes Trust work-group and presentation, Leicester City Council Christian Fellowship, Christ Embassy Church Cell Group, Zimbabwe Human Rights group meetings, Educational support 1 to 1 sessions. 'Sainsbury Veterans' group meetings, Macular Society support meetings 'Sew Sociable' sewing talks and workshops, Footpaths to Carbon Reduction training Leicester Trades Union Council meeting Café Mama breast-feeding support group, Pernicious Anaemia society meetings,

Weightwatchers, Prayer for Leicester, Depression Alliance, Coro Nostro rehearsal, Women's Equality Party Christian Aid bible study An amateur film group, Zinthiya Trust training Drama Rehearsals E. Mid. Green Party council 'In Stitches' needlecraft Portrait drawing classes,

Concerts

12 Concerts during the year have included Lubomyr Melnyk, Desford Beaufort Entertainers, 'White Noise Christmas', Old Dalby Singers, 'Wingéd Victory of the Sullen', Elgar Society concert with Knighton Chamber Orchestra, Gillian Butcher piano recital, Coro Nostro choir, Kainé Gospel Choir concert, Organ recital by Niged Ogden.

Wingéd Victory of the Sullen
in concert



Events

Heritage Open Day plus ride-and-stride, Rugby World Cup Songs of Praise evening, Leicestershire Guild of Storytellers, Woodcraft Folk visit to the city centre, Year 5/6 visit from Charnwood School, Christians Aware interfaith week talks, Leicester Faiths Pilgrimage, Church Tourism group visit, Scout group visit to hear about AA etc, Christian Aid Pentecost festival, Leicester Civic Society Heritage Fair

5. GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

GOVERNANCE

The appointment of Trustees and other officers follows the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD). The primary governing body of Bishop Street Methodist Church is the Church Council (the trustees), which is responsible for the general oversight of the church. The Trustees receive no remuneration or other financial benefits.

Annual General Meeting

All Church members can attend and are invited to raise any issue. Church Stewards and Church Representatives are elected at this meeting.

Church Council

The Church Council comprising Office holders, elected Church Stewards, elected Church Representatives, Circuit ministerial staff and a Circuit Steward meets at least twice a year. The Council is chaired by the Minister. All decisions taken at Church Council are minuted, and a summary is circulated via the church notices.

THE TRUSTEES The Trustees who served the charity were :

Officer holders	Church reps	Circuit reps
Rev Fran Rhys (Chair)	Deirdre Brunning	Jennifer Weston
Alison Skinner (Secretary)	Gillian Butcher	Rev David Vale
Martin Briers (Treasurer)	Vale Daye (to May 2016)	
Patsy Green (Pastoral Secretary)	Leon Dundas	
Pelani Ziba (Health & Safety)	Margaret Mackley	Circuit Ministers
Stewards	Miriam Stevenson	Rev Barnabas
Margaret Byron	Robin Stevenson	Alexander
Mary Gill	Sheila Swire	Rev David Willis
Boas Lee (from May 2016)		
Margaret Mackley (to May 2016)		
Tony Moore		
Hope Ncube		
Catherine Payne (from May 2016)		
Tanvi Pate (to May 2016)		
Stembeni Sakaike		

STRUCTURE

Bishop Street Methodist Church is part of the Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit, and the Northampton District of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The Minister is supported by the following internal groups and committees who report to the Church Council

a) Finance and Property Committee

The major risks are identified and recorded by the Finance and Property Committee. The committee prepares accounts and budget and oversees day-to-day finance and property matters. Income and Expenditure is monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a monthly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded. The Trustees have agreed financial management arrangements requiring dual signatures on all cheques, and prior approval for all, except minor items, of expenditure.

b) Forward Planning Group

This group, open to all members of the congregation, meets to plan future activities. It worked alongside the Bishop Street 200th Anniversary Group which arranged events to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the church.

MANAGEMENT

Paid staff and volunteers

Day to day management of the premises is delegated to the Centre Co-ordinator; Art at the Chapel work is staffed by the Art and Spirituality worker; and the cleanliness of the premises is maintained by the cleaner. All employees undergo an annual appraisal and take part in regular review meetings and appraisals.

Safeguarding

Bishop Street Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of connexional safeguarding policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches. New volunteers and post-holders within the church undertook the 'Creating Safer Space Foundation Module' safeguarding training organised by the Methodist Church. Volunteers are recruited, selected and supervised according to the Volunteer Policy.

6. PROPERTY AND FINANCE

a) Property

i. Church and Community Rooms. The most substantial work of the year has been work on the Church Organ and its surroundings. A wide range of generous donations and fund-raising efforts towards a projected cost of £92,262 have been supplemented by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, enabling work to commence. The first step was to secure and redecorate the large open arched area of the organ gallery, with installation of scaffolding and specialist lime plaster repairs to the ceiling. Work could then begin on both restoration and cleaning of the 18th century casework and the complete renovation of the internal pipes and controls. By September 2016 plans were being progressed for moving the console down to the floor of the church, with attendant replacement of the 1970s transistor-based controls to a network-based system.

In the upstairs Brandon Room, the Prince's Trust provided a volunteer workforce to redecorate the walls, and a grant from Market Harborough Methodist Church helped us get new carpet and blinds. In the downstairs kitchenette, the same grant provided a replacement for the worn-out vinyl flooring, and a grant from Methodist Women in Britain paid for an over-sink water heater. We give our thanks for all the financial assistance we have received during the year.

ii. Leased Properties. No. 10 Bishop Street continues to be leased to the CLC bookshop, the Leicester Council of Faiths and New English Design. In addition, during the year a locksmith has started using the small front unit on the ground floor; and the ground-floor rear and upstairs-front rooms have been taken on by The Zinithiya Trust, who also rent No 12 Bishop Street for use as a women's support and employment centre.

b) Finance

i. Financial Review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £77,851, an increase of less than 1% on the previous year. Grants received totalled £34,875 of which £3,000 from the Market Harborough Circuit was unrestricted and the balance of £31,875 restricted for the Organ Fund (£1,875 All Churches Trust, £22,000 first instalment Heritage Lottery Fund and £8,000 Northampton Methodist District). Total income for the Organ Fund amounted to £40,939 plus a £1,000 transfer from the General Fund and expenditure £47,742.

Total collections (cash, envelopes and standing orders) increased by 7% and a reduction of 14% in lettings income was more than offset by an increase of 19% in rental income due to new tenants in Pilgrim House.

Our Circuit Assessment contribution, calculated on a formula basis involving membership, attendance, income and reserves, reduced by 10%.

The net result for the year was an excess of Receipts over Expenditure of £5,080 on unrestricted funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st August 2016 on unrestricted funds totalled £40,334.

The accounts include a small restricted fund held, and administered, on behalf of Churches Together in Leicester City Centre

ii Reserves

(a) General Fund

This includes our Bank (Co-operative Community Directplus) and Central Finance Board (“CFB”) accounts plus cash in hand. At the end of the financial year (31.8.16) this totalled £40,334 but includes an interest free loan from the Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit of £25,000.

We aim ideally to hold in reserves sufficient money in our General Fund to cover six months budgeted expenditure i.e. £35,805.

Other Funds held for specific purposes as at 31.8.16

- (b) Art at the Chapel – £5,983
- (c) Benevolent Funds – £1,261
- (d) Development Fund – £435
- (e) Flower Fund – £250
- (f) Heritage Fund – £5,447
- (g) Mission in Leicester City Centre – £903
- (h) Organ Fund – £302 deficit.

Our Bequest Funds

The Phyllis Taberer Bequest (£6,840) is held by TMCP

Financial details 2015 to 2016

The accounts that follow are a summary of the financial activities of Bishop Street Methodist Church from 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016. A full copy of the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts can be obtained by contacting the Church Office or on the Charity Commission website.

Summary of General Fund finances for the year ending 31 August 2016

Income	2016	2015
Weekly Offerings	13,177	12,283
Gift Aid tax recovered	2,546	5,317
Bank interest and investment income	251	237
Church room lettings and leased premises	55,778	54,592
Grants and other receipts	6,099	4,971
	77,851	77,400
Expenditure		
Circuit Assessment/Share	15,624	17,327
Wages, cleaning, office costs	20,144	18,789
Repairs and maintenance	16,272	10,356
Utilities, rates and insurance	13,663	17,856
Church & youth work expenses	1,881	2,351
Donations from Church Funds	2,000	1,440
Surveyor/lease costs	600	
Other	2587	876
	72,771	68,995
Excess of Income over expenditure	5,080	8,405
Assets and Liabilities		
General Fund Assets	40,334	37,621
Restricted Funds	21,507	29,611
Liabilities (loan from Circuit)	-25,000	-25,000

(Cover Photo: Celebrating the Bicentenary, August 2016, 200 years after the first service. Photo by Ruth Joy)